



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

August 5, 2005

News Release

ILLGAL ALIEN SENTENCED TO 21 MONTHS FOR TRANSPORTING ILLEGAL ALIENS

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A twice-deported illegal alien from Mexico was sentenced late yesterday to 21 months in prison and three years supervised release, announced U.S. Attorney Margaret M. Chiara, Western District of Michigan and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Special Agent-in-Charge Brian M. Moskowitz.

Efren Olvera-Ortiz, 23, was apprehended March 26 after a routine stop by the Michigan State Police near Hartford, Mich. Olvera-Ortiz and his 13 passengers were all citizens of Mexico unlawfully present in the United States. While awaiting transportation to a detention facility several individuals including the driver fled. After about 20 minutes, all 14 were apprehended and placed in ICE custody.

The investigation by ICE agents revealed that the individual who claimed to be Hector Martinez-Olvera matched a prior deportation case under the name of Efren Olvera-Ortiz. Olvera-Ortiz had previously been removed twice from the United States, once in 2003 and again in 2004. These deportations followed his previous arrests for transporting illegal aliens.

"Smugglers routinely put the safety of the public and the welfare of their human cargo in jeopardy as they attempt to move people from one place to another," said Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent-in-charge of the ICE Detroit office. "The great work of the Michigan State Police, local law enforcement, and our ICE special agents in Grand Rapids brought this incident to a safe conclusion." Moskowitz heads the Office of Investigations which includes the states of Michigan and Ohio.

This case was presided over by Judge Ellen Carmody, U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan. Assistant U.S. Attorney Don Daniels, Western District of Michigan, prosecuted the case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.